Vol. IX. Numb. 26.

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Letter from Pomfret *of Riots by the Faction there. On their flocking after* Sacheverell *and Mr.* Higgins, *&c. on* Sundays; *and the Conſequences of it. On the Addreſſes of the Faction that our Conſtitution is in Danger by Republicans.*

From Wednesday, April 12, to Saturday, April 15. 1710.

Countrym. HEre's a Letter from *Pomfret* in *Yorkſhire*, Mr. *Obſervator*, with an Account of the Behaviour of the Pretender's Churchmen in thoſe Places.

Obſ. I find we ſhall have a Black Hiſtory of them at laſt, *Roger*; pray what does that Letter ſay?

Countrym. It ſays, Maſter, they have had very Hot Work in that Country about *Sacheverell*: There's ſcarce any Meeting-houſe in thoſe Parts but what has receiv'd ſome Dammage; they took out the Windows of the Meeting-houſe there, broke them all to pieces, threaten'd to pull the Diſſenting Miniſter out of his Pulpit, and ſaid, had they been at *London* they would have been the Firſt in pulling down the Meeting-houſes there. Nay, the Devil has ſo far blinded them with Fury and Rage, that in one Place in the North they attack'd another Houſe inſtead of a Meeting-houſe, and did it a great deal of Dammage; they Chriſten their Children by the Name of *Sacheverell*; and ſome of the Faction, when on their Death-bed told their Miniſters when they came to ſee them, that if Dr. *Sacheverell* were there he could ſave them: So that they make a Perfect Pope of him.

Obſ. We are not to wonder, *Roger*, to hear of ſuch Things in the North, and other Remote Parts of the Nation, where the People are too generally neglected, and put off with a Parcel of Sorry Reading Curates, that are not able to give them Inſtruction, while their Vicars, Rectors, or Parſons, live at a great Diſtance from them upon other Fat Cures. But what can we expect from People bred up in Ignorance, when in and about *London*, where they have the ableſt Clergy of the Nation, many of them Perſons of great Worth, who preach Sound Doctrine, are good Enſamples to their Flocks, teach them Moderation and good Morals, a few Hot Headed Prieſts have been able to make ſuch a Diſturbance, and been countenanc'd by Magiſtrates, Common-councilmen, and other Topping Citizens.

Countrym. One would wonder tho', Maſter, how People ſhould come to be poſſeſſed with ſuch a Phrenzy: The Faction us'd formerly to value themſelves as being the only Men remarkable for Decency and good Order in their Churches, and for Obedience and Reſpect to Magiſtrates; but now they have choſen the Reverſe, and behave themſelves with the ſame Diſreſpect towards God as they do to the Queen; they neglect their own Grave and Worthy Miniſters; and gad after ſuch Incendiaries, as *Higgins* and *Sacheverell*: So as the Churches are not able to contain them, the Rabble quarrel about Seats, or who ſhall get neareſt thoſe Idol-Shepherds, as they come and go from Church. The Oyſter-Women, and Chair-Women tear one another's Coifs; the Non-reſiſtance Ladies make havock of one another's Furbelow'd Scarves, and the Farthing Gale-Petticoats are miſerably Ruffled: Nay, Mr. I am told they croud ſo faſt over the Bridge to hear S. *Sacheverell* read Prayers, tho' one would think they might hear them, as well anywhere elſe, that Nobody can paſs for them; yet theſe are the People of Decency and Order, the only true Sons and Daughters of the Church, and all the reſt are but Hypocrites, and falſe Brothers and Siſters, you cann't imagine how much the Faction value themſelves upon thoſe Things; Mr. they think the Mob is all on their Side, which makes them ſo Inſolent that they talk publickly againſt Her Majeſty, and Her Miniſters, eſpecially in ſome Coffee-houſes near St. *Paul's*, and elſewhere, which are frequented by Tantivy Clergymen. There's nothing more Common among them than to talk of pulling down *the Fortunate Family*, to ridicule *Bleinheim*, and to ſay, that the Names of ſuch and ſuch Great Miniſters ſtink. I aſſure you, Mr. I have much ado to forbear flouriſhing my Oaken Towel among 'em; and were it not that the Conſecrated Cloth keeps me in awe, I ſhould now and then cover the Floor with Broad-brimm'd Hats, and Roſes, and Powder, their Flaxen Wiggs, with Sand inſtead of Plaiſter of *Paris*; but becauſe I am for reforming, and not deſtroying, I give them this Hint, that they may either learn to behave themſelves modeſtly, and to bridle their Tongues, otherwiſe I will take Care to have ſuch a Squadron of St. *George*'s ſent among them as ſhall call thoſe Dragons to an Account, ſo as they ſhall neither perch upon *Bow* Steeple, to regale themſelves with the Harmony of *Bow* Bells, nor on the Croſs upon the Cupulo of St. *Paul's*, either to tell the Clock, or to lick the Oil out of its Wheels.

Obſ. Thou'rt a Terrible Fellow, *Roger*; how com'ſt thou to take ſuch Airs to thy ſelf this Morning? Haſt thou been tippling *October* already?

Countrym. Don't you trouble your ſelf about that, Mr. *Obſervator*, I know what I ſay; I cann't endure that our moſt Gracious Queen, who has been *as ſincerely kind to the Church as any of Her Predeceſſors, and has as True and Tender a Concern for its Welfare and Proſperity as any of 'em ever had*, ſhould be thus abus'd by thoſe, who, were it not for Her Royal Protection, could not make Money of their Mercenary Breath: Is this the Return they make to Her Majeſty *for their Firſt Fruits?* Beſides, I don't like thoſe High-Church Rabbles, we don't know what Diſorders they may occaſion; One of my Neighbours told me t'other Day, that his Eldeſt Daughter *Joan*, who went to one of 'em came home with her *Placket tore and rent*, and his Second Daughter *Kate*, who muſt go thither likewiſe, as other Fools do for Company, was taken with ſuch a Fit of Pewking next Morning, that he could not tell what to think on't. We have had Miſchiefs enough

enough already by Rendeſvouzes of Papiſts, Nonjurant's, Jacobites, and High-Church Mobs, let thoſe who are True Churchmen keep to their own Churches, and not run a gawding thus after Trumpeters of Sedition, who knows what Papiſts, Nonjurants, Leachers, Pickpockets, and Shoplifts, who forage among ſuch Mobs may take occaſion to do, we have had Fires enough of their kindling already, I don't deſire to ſee another Monument erected, to tell us how many Wards of the City were burnt down by Nonjurants, and the Pretender's Churchmen, in Conjunction with Papiſts, on Pretence of burning Meeting-houſes; therefore I hope the Magiſtrates of *London*, and *Southwark*, will take Care in Time, and prevent ſuch Riotous Aſſemblies. Let the Readers of the Out-Pariſhes, whether it be at *S——d* on *B——w*, or anywhere elſe, keep their own Desks, and not come to applaud our *London* Mobs for inſulting the Managers of the Houſe of Commons, and for pulling down Meeting-houſes, nor Blaſpheme God on Pretence of Bleſſing him, for *making his Glory to appear in ſuch Rebellious and Tumultuous Riots.*

Obſ. You muſt talk no more of Rebellions by Papiſts, Jacobites, and Nonjurants, *Roger*; the Government is in no Danger from them, but only from Men of *Republican Notions, and Antimonarchical Principles*; if you won't believe me, you muſt believe the Wiſe Addreſſes of the Party, drawn up to the Tune of *Sacheverell*, which talk of *daring and inſolent Attacks*, that have been publickly made on our Conſtitution by Republican Notions; ſo ſaid the Dr. in the Dedication of his St. *Paul*'s Sermon, *That our Conſtitution was vigorouſly attack'd from without, and lazily defended within*; and p. 12, of his Quarto Edition, he talks of *Republicans, who Copy their New-fangled Notions of Self-defence after the Papiſts*; and p. 11, he ſays there are ſome *who make their Court to their Prince by Antimonarchical Schemes.*

Countryn. I think it very ſtrange that any Man ſhould talk of Danger to the Government at this Time of Day, Maſter, from *Republican Notions* and *Antimonarchical Principles*, when the Queen in Her Proclamation, and the Parliament in their Addreſſes, have told us that Papiſts, Nonjurors, and other Enemies to Her Majeſty's Title and Government, have actually riſen in Rebellion; when our own Eyes have ſeen it, when Accounts from all Places of the Nation tells us every Day of Rebellious Tumults by the High-Church Faction and Nonjurants, *&c.* when there are ſo many impriſon'd in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, who were actually taken in Rebellion, and when Bills againſt ſeveral of them are found accordingly: Certainly, Maſter, theſe People muſt have a great deal of Aſſurance or Folly. Can they tell us who thoſe Republicans are, where they live, what Books they have writ againſt our Conſtitution, as founded on *Magna Charta*, and the Declaration of Rights ſince the Revolution? If they cann't, I can liken them to nothing but the Shepherd in the Fable, who, when a Wolf had actually invaded the Fold, went and told his Maſters, that he was afraid a certain Fox, which had worried ſome Sheep about 60 Years before might do the like again, in the mean Time he ſaid nothing of the Wolf that was deſtroying the Flock, becauſe he had made a Private Bargain with the Wolf, that he ſhould content himſelf with the Fleſh and Blood, but leave the Skins and Tallow to the Shepherd.

Obſ. Your Fable is pat enough, *Roger*, but we ſhall take another Opportunity to talk of thoſe Things; in the mean Time, 'tis a very Daring and Inſolent Attack upon the Conſtitution and Her Majeſty's Prerogative, for any Man or Set of Men to eſpouſe Dr. *Sacheverell*'s Notions, which have been ſo ſolemnly condemn'd; and I cannot but think it an Arraignment of Her Majeſty's Wiſdom and Adminiſtration, as well as of the Wiſdom of both Houſes of Parliament to talk of ſuch Publick, Daring, and Inſolent, Attacks upon Her Government and Prerogative by Republicans, when neither Her Majeſty nor Her Parliament ever told us the leaſt Word of any ſuch Thing; though had there been ſuch Daring and Publick Attacks, they certainly would have iſſued out Proclamations and Addreſſes againſt them, as they have done againſt the Papiſts, Nonjurors, and *Sacheverell*'s Faction, that have attack'd the Conſtitution, and Her Majeſty's Prerogative, with a Witneſs: But the taking of the *French* Lines by our *Fortunate General*, they would pull down, has put Water in their Wine; of which more in our next, *Roger.*

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